

91

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**REPORT NO. 

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 24 May 1955

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Army Supply and Transportation  
2. Soviet Army Medical Services

NO. OF PAGES 7

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50X1

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50X1

50X1

**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**SOURCE **UNIT SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE**

50X1

Source stated that in the 

50X1

the deputy CO for rear services, 

50X1

was responsible for all supply within the battalion.

He had no knowledge of any supply procedures other than that all supplies of food, ammunition, and POL were delivered from battalion headquarters to his unit, a guard company of the battalion. 50X1

**Food**

Meat and fish were brought to source's company from the battalion warehouses in unknown quantities at intervals of about three days. Other supplies, such as potatoes, cabbage, condiments, and other dry rations, arrived about every 10 days. Source did not know the capacity of the battalion warehouse. An unknown quantity of emergency rations (neprikosnovenniy zapas - NZ) was kept in the company supply room. He thought that they consisted of groats, macaroni, canned meats and fish, crackers, and tea.

**Ammunition Supply 1**

When the men in source's company were on patrol duty or vehicle check-point duty, they each carried one drum with about 35 rounds for the SMG. This ammunition was never used. There were 3,000 rounds of SMG ammunition for sentry duty kept in the company arms room. In the same room was kept in reserve for emergencies an additional 9,000 rounds for the LMG, 16,000 rounds for the SMG, and an unknown number of rounds for pistols.

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

50X1

- After completing range exercises, the men in source's company were told to pick up expended cartridges and return them to the company supply organization. The number of rounds that would be issued to the company for the next range firing exercise was allegedly based on the number of empty cartridges turned in to battalion supply. Source cited one occasion when the men fired only five rounds from the SMG instead of the customary nine rounds.
- Source stated that there was an ammunition shed in the battalion headquarters compound but he did not know the quantity of ammunition stored there. <sup>2</sup> He had no further information on ammunition supply at this or higher levels.

POL Supplies

- Source did not know how much fuel was needed to fill all the fuel tanks in any unit, including his own battalion. In his company, there was one truck and a jeep which received their fuel at the battalion headquarters caserne when needed. There were no POL storage tanks of any kind in his company. Source did not know how POL was supplied to his battalion. The battalion fuel was stored at the caserne in barrels. He did not know the quantity of fuel thus stored, nor did he know if there were any limitations on expenditures of ammunition and fuel or on the use of vehicles.

Chemical Warfare Defense Equipment

- All men of source's company were issued a Shlem-1 gas mask which was kept in the arms room. The men were also issued protective capes and socks for practical and tactical training in defense against chemical warfare. These were returned to the supply room at the end of training. All chemical warfare training was on the platoon level and only one platoon would be trained on any one day. For that reason, source did not know if there were enough socks and capes to equip the whole company.

50X1

Supply in the Field

- [redacted] and source therefore did not know the procedures for moving supply points and repair units in the field.

Transportation

- [redacted] Special Garrison Battalion Headquarters had its own organic vehicles for transportation. <sup>3</sup> In source's company there was an old American jeep, and source believed that each of the four guard companies of the battalion had one such vehicle. Source had not seen any other foreign vehicle utilized by the Soviet Army in East Germany other than an occasional German BMW passenger car which the battalion CO had for his own use.

50X1

- a. Driver Training - Source never received any driver or maintenance training while in service.
- b. Repairs - [redacted] had a small auto-repair shop in which most repairs were made on battalion vehicles. Source did not know to what extent repairs were made here or what equipment the shop possessed.

50X1

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- 3 -

Weapons Maintenance

3. Weapons repairs were made in the battalion ordnance section. On several occasions the ordnance repair man came to source's company and made repairs on weapons. However, usually company weapons were sent to the battalion ordnance section.

SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENTClothing and Equipment IssuesIndividual Issue;

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
	Overseas cap (Pilotka)	Cotton	OD	Issued for eight months.
	Overcoat	Cotton	Gray	Issued for entire period of service
	Pullover Tunic	Cotton	OD	Issued for eight months.
pr	Breeches	Cotton	OD	Issued for eight months.
pr	Boots	Cowhide	Black	Issued for eight months if made in USSR for 12 months if made in East Germany.
set	Underwear, summer	Cotton	Blue	Sent to laundry every 10 days.
	Athletic Uniform	Cotton	Unk	Issued to source and 30 men of company who played soccer.
	Swimming trunks	Cotton	White	
pr	Footwraps, summer	Cotton	White	Issued for six months; exchanged in winter for flannel footwraps.
	Towels	Cotton	White	Issued for eight months.
	Collar liners	Cotton	White	Issued for entire length of service.
	Handkerchiefs	Cotton	White	Issued for entire length of service.
	Belt, trouser	Leather	Tan	Issued for entire length of service.
	Belt, for tunic	Cowhide	Tan	Issued for entire length of service.

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- 4 -

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Ear cap, winter	Fur and Flannel	Gray	Issued for winter season.
1 set	Underwear, winter	Flannel	White	Issued for winter season.
1 pr	Footwraps, winter	Flannel	White	Issued for winter season.
2 pr	Shorts, winter	Flannel	White	Issued for winter season.
1 pr	Gloves	Flannel	OD	Issued for winter season.
1	short coat (bushlat)	Cotton	OD	Issued for entire period of service.
. Organizational Issue - In addition to the above, the following organizational equipment was issued to source:				
1	7.62 mm PPSh SMG Shlem-1 Gas Mask			
1	Mattress cover	Cotton	White	Exchanged every 10 days.
2	Pillow Cases	Cotton	White	Exchanged every 10 days.
2	Bed sheets	Cotton	White	Exchanged every 10 days.
1	Blanket	Flannel	Blue	
1	Mattress	Cotton	Unk	
1	Knapsack	Cotton	OD	For mess gear, canteen, entrenching tool.
1	Overcoat	Cotton	Gray	Issued for winter period. To be worn only on duty and for parades.
1	Winter Ear cap	Fur and Flannel	Gray	Worn on duty and for parades only.
1 pr	Gloves	Flannel	OD	Worn on duty and for parades only.
1	Trousers, Dress uniform	Wool and cotton	Blue	Worn on duty and for parades only. Issued to all men in source's battalion.
1	Blouse (kitel)	Wool and cotton	OD	Worn on duty and for parades only.
1	Service hat	Cotton	OD (magenta band)	Worn on duty and for parades only.

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CONFIDENTIAL  
- 5 -

50X1

Repairs

Minor repairs to individual equipment was the soldiers responsibility. Any large clothing repairs were made by a tailor located at the battalion headquarters caserne. A company cobbler did all of the shoe repair work for the company.

Loss and Wearout of Individual Clothing

Source stated that if an EM lost an article of clothing through theft or neglect he had to pay to have it replaced. Source did not know what would occur if clothing was worn out before the prescribed wear-out period.

Rumored Change of Soviet Army Shoulderboards

Source stated that it was rumored among troops in his unit that shoulderboards within the Soviet Army were to be changed [redacted] He said that he heard that all the shoulderboards would be magenta in color like the present infantry shoulderboards. He did not hear of any rumors to the effect that metallic emblems might be changed or eliminated.

50X1

RATIONS

Ordinary Rations

Source gave the following as an example of the daily individual ration which varied very little:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Daily Allowance</u>
Bread	800 grams (summer) 900 grams (winter)
Groats (kasha)	70 grams
Macaroni	70 grams
Meat	150 grams (for dinner)
Fish	150 grams (for supper)
Sugar	30 grams
Tee leaves	2 grams
Potatoes	No set amount

Special Rations

Source heard that the men in his unit who were in the hospital at one time or another received milk and eggs as part of their daily diet.

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PAY

[redacted] monthly pay. He stated that a conscript platoon sergeant received 50 Eastmarks and 50 rubles. He also gave the following pay scale which he learned in discussions with other soldiers in his company:

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- 6 -

Rank or PositionPay

M/Sgt (conscriptee)	100 Eastmarks and 100 rubles
M/Sgt (re-enlistee)	370 Eastmarks and 370 rubles
Platoon leader (Lt or Pr Lt)	750 Eastmarks and 925 rubles
Company political officer (capt)	925 Eastmarks and 925 rubles
Company CO (capt)	1,400 Eastmarks and 1,400 rubles

Source stated that the men in his unit were paid by the company political officer on the twentieth of each month. He said that there was no special pay call ceremony. All that he did was to report to the political officer, sign the payroll sheet, and collect his money. The political officer drew the payroll from the battalion finance officer.

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SOVIET ARMY TRANSPORTATION

[redacted] He said that trucks kept a distance or what he thought to be 30 meters between vehicles when in motion. The largest convoy that he saw was one of about eight trucks. He had no knowledge of any Soviet Army system of traffic control. Source had never seen any horse-drawn equipment in Soviet Army units, either in Germany or in the USSR.

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MEDICAL SERVICEMedical Examinations

Source received a medical examination prior to his induction in the Soviet Army. Upon reporting for basic training he was given another medical examination, which he considered thorough [redacted] upon arrival in the [redacted] he was given a cursory check-up which included nothing more than a check of his heart and eyesight. He received no further checks from that time until his [redacted]

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Facilities

In [redacted] there were no medical facilities or equipment as such. There was a company first-aid man, a private, to apply rudimentary measures, but if he could not handle the job, the patient was sent to battalion headquarters. There were about two doctors and a small dispensary with about eight beds, where treatment was often given at the battalion. Source was in this dispensary once but did not see any X-ray machine or any other large equipment. He stated that serious illnesses such as ulcers, which were prevalent among battalion personnel, were treated in an unidentified Soviet Army hospital in Berlin-Karlshorst. He did not know the exact location of the hospital. Source never received any first-aid training while in the Soviet Army.

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Medical Personnel

Source stated that he had never personally met personnel of the medical corps other than the two battalion doctors, one of whom was the battalion senior surgeon, a senior lieutenant. The other doctor held the rank of lieutenant.

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There were no [redacted]  
Source went to [redacted]

However, when [redacted]  
served many Soviet

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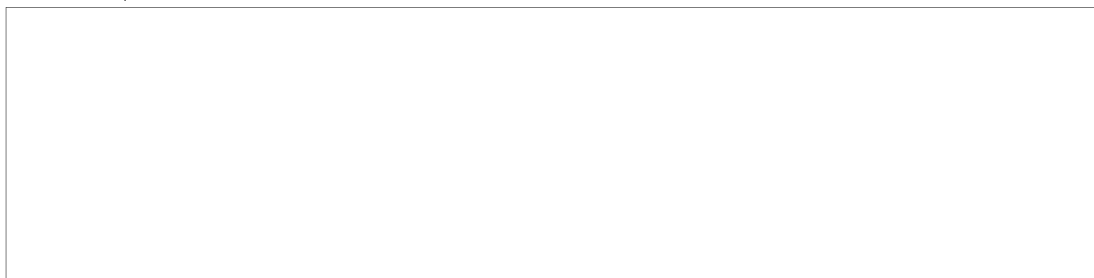
- 7 -



Army woman officers who were reportedly working in the hospital there as doctors and nurses. Source saw one Soviet female medical officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Source had no further knowledge of medical or evacuation procedures of the Soviet Army.

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